(d) what legal and administrative measures have been enforced to check collection, distribution and transfusion of infected blood ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) No, Sir. The number of AIDS cases detected in Madras Medical College, Madras from 1989 to January 1993 is 47.

(b) 180 Zonal Blood Testing Centres, including 62 Surveillance Centres have been established to facilitate the testing of blood for HIV infection. Linkages have been provided to all the blood banks.

(c) The available sero-surveillance data indicates that about 2.08% of the detected cases of HIV infection belong to the category of recipients of blood or blood-products.

(d) The regulatory mechanism under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act has been tightened up to ensure strict conformity to the Statutory stipulations. Approval of the Drug Controller (India) is a prerequisite before licence to a blood bank is either issued or renewed. Under the National AIDS Control Programme all States/UT Administration are being assisted to strengthen the enforcement machinery for ensuing full compliance with the law.

Migration of Medicos from U.S.S.R.

1817. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item that appeared in Indian Express dated the 30th January, 1993 stating that the medicos are being allowed to migrate from Russia; and

(b) if so, the number of Indian students who are likely to return to India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Medical Council of India are considering the migration cases of students sent by the Council for medical studies, in recognized institutions in the erstwhile U.S.S.R., within the migration rules of the Council.

(b) The Council has informed that they have so far received 36 applications from MCI sponsored students.

Organising of Sixth Asian Congress of Agri. Medicines and Rural Health

1818. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sixth Asian Congress of Agri. Medicines and Rural Health was organised by Pravara Nagar Rural Medical College near Pune, during January, 1993;

(b) which were the countries represented officially in the Congress;

(c) whether the representatives of the Ministry of Health, Government of India or the State Government of Maharashtra Participated in the Congress; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delegates from Australia, China, Germany, Sweden, Yogoslavia and India participated in the Congress.

(c) and (d) Government of Maharashtra only was represented at the Congress.

Use of Cellular Phones to accelerate Cancer Growth

1819. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports circulating that use of Cellular phones can accelerate cancer growth and that many cellular phone users have died of brain tumor; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider its decision to introduce cellular phones in India in a big way ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) According to Indian